

# BUCKS COUNTY GIRLS SOFTBALL LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT

## General Expectations

The goal of Bucks County Girls Softball League is to provide a learning opportunity for young women to play softball in an atmosphere that encourages and promotes teamwork, friendly competition, amicable relationships, good sportsmanship, and community. The organization expects coaches, players, fans, and parents to exhibit courtesy and proper decorum always.

## Code of Conduct

### The Softball Player Code of Conduct

By being a part of the Bucks County Girls Softball League organization, high expectations will be placed on you. The coaching staff will hold every athlete to a high standard and will expect all team members to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Behavior that is deemed disruptive and detrimental to the team can bring consequences ranging from diminished playing time to dismissal from the team or the league. The following items are in place to make you a better person and promote the image of our softball program.

- a.) Always be on time for all softball related activities. Please be courteous enough to call if you cannot attend or will be late.
- b.) Practice at “Game Pace”. You are expected to treat practice just like a game. Practice is the time to learn and improve. We will not coach poor attitudes, we cannot coach effort, and effort comes from the player – on the inside.
- c.) Always support your teammates on and off the field. We are in this together.
- d.) Be coachable. Listen to your coaches’ instruction. Ask questions if you are not sure. Be willing to try new positions and new techniques. Be willing to do whatever your team and/or coach(s) needs you to do.
- e.) Accept your role on the team. If you do not like it, work harder to change it. Playing time is earned in practice and on the field.
- f.) Do not transfer blame or make excuses. It is not acceptable. Learn from your mistakes.
- g.) Do not question the coaches during a game, ever. We will meet 1 on 1, in a productive manner to clear up any misunderstandings. Coaches do make mistakes.
- h.) Disrespect for coaches, parents, teammates, staff, opponents, and umpires will not be tolerated.
- i.) Always lead by example on and off the field.
- j.) Be the good example and set the standard high for future Bucks County Girls Softball League players to follow.
- k.) Injuries will be taken seriously. It is important that players and parents have open and honest communications with coaches regarding injuries. Playing with soreness and slight pain is part of sports; however, playing injured is not. Health of the player is paramount. **Any injury requiring a doctor's care will require a doctor's note clearing the player to return.** Injured players are still required to attend practices and games.

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- I.) No profanity and/or abusive language will be tolerated.
- m.) No bullying. We have a ZERO tolerance policy for bullying
- n.) If a player is asked to leave the league due to discipline reasons, no refund will be given.
- o.) BCGSL has a “zero” tolerance policy regarding the use of drugs or alcohol by any league player.
- p.) No food is permitted in the dugout area during practice or games.
- q.) Players are not permitted to go to the concession stand to purchase food during a game.
- r.) Negative social media posts will not be tolerated.

## The Softball Coach Code of Conduct

- a.) Exemplify behavior that is representative of being an adult, a coach, a member of the Bucks County Girls Softball League, and a leader of young women.
- b.) Demonstrate high ideals, good sportsmanship, and desirable attitudes in personal behavior and demand the same standards from his/her players.
- c.) Emphasize to his/her players and support personnel the importance of proper behavior and the necessity of restraining from entering the playing field to engage in an altercation of any kind.
- d.) Maintain self-control always.
- e.) Cooperate with and assist the Bucks County Girls Softball League Executive Board in the planning, scheduling, and conduct of organization activities.
- f.) Utilize positive educational methods in coaching; giving all players an opportunity to develop and use initiative leadership and judgement.
- g.) Play close attention to the physical condition and well-being of players; refusing to jeopardize the health of an individual for the sake of improving his/her team’s chances of winning.
- h.) Discourage profanity or abusive language directed toward anyone involved with the Bucks County Girls Softball League and its activities.
- i.) Refuse to disparage opponent, officials, or others associated with the Bucks County Girls Softball League or its activities.
- j.) Conducts himself/herself properly when raising questions about or discussing a call with an official.
- k.) Bucks County Girls Softball League coaches have an obligation to participate in the building of the BCGSL organization, not just their team.
- l.) Coaches are expected to interact with parents, fostering an atmosphere of open communications, trust, and team.
- m.) Coach should establish team rules, coaching philosophy, and properly set player and parental expectations on practice participation, playing time, in-game interaction between player and parents, etc.
- n.) Coaches should conduct organized and productive practices. Practice should be conducted in a serious, “Game Pace” manner. Practice is for learning and improving. Be prepared for practice and set the tone for your team.
- o.) Coaches are strictly prohibited from using alcohol/drugs during all team activities including but not limited to games and practices.

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- p.) Any coach who violates the coach code of conduct may be asked to leave the league.

## **The Softball Parent Code of Conduct**

Parents play a huge role in the development of a successful softball player. Your role is every bit as important as that of the coaches, and every bit as difficult. That is why we welcome your presence at every practice and every game. We try very hard to be a family-oriented organization, and *your participation is a major part of our success.*

- a.) Encourage your daughter to communicate with the coaches. It is very important that the players build the confidence to interact with, and establish a healthy interactive relationship with their coaches.
- b.) Make sure your daughter is on time to all team activities. Always know, if you as parents cannot get your daughter to an event, we are a team and someone will help you.
- c.) Communicate with the coaching staff. Respond to emails or texts so we know you got information provided. We want all to be on the same page.
- d.) Please come to any of your child's coaches if you have a problem or concern. Your thoughts are important to us. We will work to address your concerns. If we cannot help, we will explain why and work with you to find another way to address your concerns. Complaining to other parents cannot solve your problems, nor can we solve problems that we do not know about. If you respect our organization enough to allow us to play such a big part in your child's life, please respect us enough to know that we have your child's best interest in mind.
- e.) Parents play their role at home and outside the softball field. On the softball field, the coaches play their role. Please do not coach your child during practices or games. Your comments distract from what the coach is doing. They give the player another thing to think about and it interferes with the development of the player/coach relationship.
- f.) Please stay out of the bench area during games. Make every effort to ensure that your daughter has everything she need prior to the start of the game (water, equipment, etc.). If your daughter needs something, the coach may give her permission to leave the bench area or request a parent's assistance.
- g.) Do not question the coaches ever. We will meet 1 on 1, in a productive manner to clear up any misunderstandings. Coaches do make mistakes.
- h.) Be supportive of your daughter after good games and poor games. Your support matters more than you realize.
- i.) Please tell the coach before practice or games if you think your child has an illness or injury that will prevent her from participating. Please do not rely on the coach to make medical decisions.
- j.) Be an example for your daughter. They are still impressionable kids and young adults.
- k.) Behavior deemed disruptive and/or abusive will not be tolerated.
- l.) Disrespect for coaches, other parents, staff, players, umpires and opposing teams will not be tolerated.
- m.) Parents can be asked to leave the complex for violation the league parent's code of conduct.
- n.) Parents are responsible for everyone in their party.

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- o.) No drugs or alcohol will be allowed on complex grounds.
- p.) Smoking is in designated areas only.

## **Social Media Policy (for all)**

Bucks County Girls Softball League understands that social media can be a fun and rewarding way to share your life and opinions with family and friends. However, use of social media also presents certain risks and carries with it certain responsibilities. To assist you in making responsible decisions about your use of social media, we have established these guidelines for appropriate use of social media.

- a) Avoid using statements, photographs, video, or audio that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, or that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone's reputation.
- b) The absence of explicit reference to a particular social media site does not limit the extent of the application of this policy. Members of BCGSL should always act responsibly and use their judgment.
- c) No negative posts about BCGSL, teammates, coaches or opposing leagues or players will be tolerated.
- d) Anyone who creates a post that can be viewed as negative, abusive, or offensive can and will be disciplined by BCGSL.

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I understand that if I fail to follow these rules of conduct it can lead to game suspensions or removal from the team and/or league

I understand that Bucks County Girls Softball League has a zero tolerance for fighting and bullying on or off the playing field and any fighting or bullying incident or occurrence will result in immediate expulsion of all players involved.

I understand and agree to the above Codes of Conduct.

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

